

**REMARKS**

Species 1 (claims 14-17, 21, 22, and 25) is elected without traverse, and it is requested that non-elected claims 18-20, 23, 24 and 26 be retained in this application without further action, for possible rejoinder or for filing in a further divisional application.

The specification has been amended to obviate the objection raised in cipher 8 of the Action.

Claims 14, 21, and 25 have been amended to clarify the invention, and to better define the invention over the prior art. Claims 17 and 22 have been amended to obviate the objection raised in cipher 9 of the Action. And, claims 21 and 22 have been amended to address the 112 rejection. No new matter has been entered.

Turning to the art rejection, the rejection of claims 14-17, 21, 22 and 25 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Lin et al. (US Patent Application No. 2002/0022340) is in error. Independent claims 14, 21 and 25, as amended, require "wherein the second thickness of said second portion is substantially uniform." Lin et al., on the other hand, teaches a thickness of the second portion that dramatically decreases as you move away from the intersection with the first portion. Thus, Lin et al. cannot anticipate nor render obvious independent claims 14, 21 and 25 or any of the claims dependent thereon.

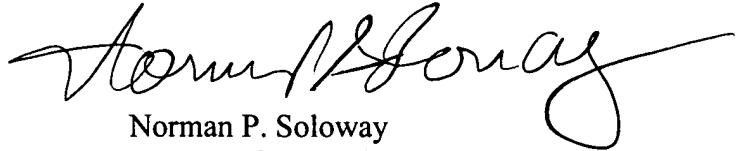
Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

**HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.**  
130 W. CUSHING STREET  
TUCSON, AZ 85701  
TEL. 520.882.7623  
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET  
MANCHESTER, NH 03101  
TEL. 603.668.1400  
FAX. 603.668.8567

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



Norman P. Soloway  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 24,315

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

January 24, 2005, at Tucson, Arizona.

By Linda Chubel

NPS/WPO:lv

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.  
130 W. CUSHING STREET  
TUCSON, AZ 85701  
TEL. 520.882.7623  
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET  
MANCHESTER, NH 03101  
TEL. 603.668.1400  
FAX. 603.668.8567